

Application No.: 10/701218

Case No.: 55328US010

REMARKS§ 102 Rejections

Claims 1-39 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(a) as being anticipated by Hosokawa et al. (EP 0 989 174).

Hosokawa describes an adhesive composition that is "not tacky at ordinary temperatures". (See, e.g., Abstract, Field of the Invention, p. 2 at lines 36-37, etc.). The adhesive composition of Hosokawa is a thermal adhesive composition that shows adhesion upon being heated. (See Abstract). The Examples of Hosokawa are explicitly labeled as "non-tacky" in Table 1 of Hosokawa.

In contrast, all of the presently pending claims of the present invention require a pressure-sensitive adhesive. The present specification defines "pressure sensitive adhesives" as "adhesives which exhibit permanent tack at room temperatures". (Specification, p. 1, lines 11-12). Hosokawa does not teach or suggest a composition with a pressure sensitive adhesive according to this definition. Hosokawa specifically teaches using a non-tacky adhesive. Accordingly, Hosokawa does not teach or suggest every element of the present claims. For at least this reason, claims 27-29 and 33-76 are patentable over Hosokawa. The Applicants request withdrawal of this rejection.

The dependent claims also include additional reasons for patentability over the cited reference. For example, claims 3 and 22 recite that Ar in naphthyl. By contrast, Hosogawa discloses a compound where the corresponding aryl group, ϕ , is a phenyl group, a mono-alkyl substituted phenyl group or a dialkyl-substituted phenyl group. Thus, Hosogawa does not teach or suggest a compound with a naphthyl group. For this additional reason, claims 3 and 22 are patentable over the cited reference.

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As another example, claims 18 and 36 recite a pressure sensitive adhesive with an aromatic monomer having a sulfur atom. Hosogawa does not teach or suggest monomers containing sulfur atoms. For this additional reason, claims 18 and 36 are patentable over the cited reference.

Respectfully submitted,

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